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Amendments to the Claims

- 1) (Previously Presented) A method for increasing the antimicrobial effect of an aqueous colorant preparation having a heavy metal ion concentration of not less than 20 ppm and wherein the colorant is a reactive dye, a direct dye, an acid dye, a disperse dye or a pigment and includes a complexed heavy metal selected from the group consisting of Cu, Co, Ni, Fe, Cr and Al comprising the step of adding to the aqueous colorant an effective amount of a biocide, wherein the biocide is an antimicrobially effective amount of a mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol.
- 2) (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the aqueous colorant preparation is a recording fluid.
- 3) (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobially effective amount is 0.001% to 0.1% by weight as solid and based on the total weight of the colorant preparation.
- 4) (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixing ratio of the individual constituents chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol is (0.005 to 0.1):(0.005 to 0.05):1.
- 5) (Cancelled)
- 6) (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the colorant is C.I. Reactive Black 8, C.I. Reactive Black 31, C.I. Reactive Blue 7, C.I. Reactive Blue 14, C.I. Reactive Blue 21, C.I. Reactive Blue 28, C.I. Reactive Blue 38, C.I. Reactive

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Blue 82, C.I. Reactive Blue 89, C.I. Reactive Blue 158, C.I. Reactive Blue 182, C.I. Reactive Blue 190, C.I. Reactive Blue 203, C.I. Reactive Blue 216, C.I. Reactive Blue 220, C.I. Reactive Blue 244, C.I. Reactive Violet 1, C.I. Reactive Violet 5, C.I. Reactive Red 6, C.I. Reactive Red 23, C.I. Reactive Brown 18, C.I. Direct Blue 76, C.I. Direct Blue 84, C.I. Direct Blue 86, C.I. Direct Blue 87, C.I. Direct Blue 98, C.I. Direct Blue 199, C.I. Direct Blue 202, C.I. Direct Blue 290, C.I. Direct Black 112, C.I. Direct Brown 95, C.I. Direct Violet 47, C.I. Acid Blue 87, C.I. Acid Blue 185, C.I. Acid Blue 249, C.I. Pigment Blue 15:1-15:4, C.I. Pigment Blue 17, C.I. Pigment Green 7, C.I. Pigment Green 37, C.I. Pigment Red 257, C.I. Pigment Red 271, C.I. Pigment Orange 65, C.I. Pigment Orange 68, C.I. Pigment Yellow 117, C.I. Pigment Yellow 129 or C.I. Pigment Yellow 153.

7) (Previously Presented) An aqueous colorant preparation comprising 0.1% to 50% by weight of at least one heavy metal complex colorant, 0.001% to 0.1% by weight of an antimicrobial mixture, wherein the antimicrobial mixture is a mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol and 10% to 90% by weight of deionized water, all based on the total weight (100% by weight) of the colorant preparation.

8) (Previously Presented) An aqueous colorant preparation comprising at least 20 ppm of heavy metal ions and 0.1% to 50% by weight of at least one colorant 0.001% to 0.1% by weight of an antimicrobial mixture wherein the antimicrobial mixture is a mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol and 10% to 90% by weight of deionized water, all based on the total weight (100% by weight) of the colorant preparation.

9) (Cancelled)

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10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the recording fluid is a ink jet ink.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobially effective amount 0.02% by weight, as solid and based on the total weight of the colorant preparation.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) A composition produced with the aqueous colorant composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of color filters, electronic inks and electronic paper.
15. (Previously Presented) A fiberous composition produced with the aqueous colorant composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein fiberous composition is a natural or synthetic material.
16. (New) A recording fluid comprising the aqueous colorant preparation as claimed in claim 7.
17. (New) An ink jet ink comprising the aqueous colorant preparation as claimed in claim 7.